

Since being elected to Congress, I have voted against what I consider to be wasteful spending. I also fought to include stronger budget enforcement guarantees in this agreement. The agreement contains some basic enforcement language including the continuation of the current caps on "discretionary spending" and "pay go" rules. These enforcement provisions are a good start but I had hoped they would be much stronger.

I am a founding member of the Bipartisan Budget Enforcement Group which proposed legislation to set a strict timetable each year for assessing whether the budget was still on track and require Congress to make necessary changes in spending or taxes if the budget did not remain balanced. Our bill was tough on spending but it also put controls on tax cuts if necessary. This guaranteed that it offended just about everyone and had little chance of becoming law. But my group shined a spotlight on the need for truth in budgeting and served notice to Congress that we are watching. We sent an important message: We will not allow the Government to run on autopilot or break its promises.

Promises—that's really the heart of my personal reason for wanting to help a balanced budget become law. My son, Johnny, is my first child. He is 1 year old and he is my daily reminder that our dedication to fulfilling today's promises will have a profound affect on future generations. This budget makes some good investments in people and their livelihoods including: Grants to provide medical coverage for uninsured children; education tax credits/deductions for tuition at institutions of higher education or training; capital gains tax cut; estate tax cut for family-owned farms and businesses; new Medicare coverage for preventive health care; higher tax deduction for health insurance premiums for the self-employed; and increased spending for federal supported job training programs.

These are worthwhile investments in the better health and education of our country. I can readily see the difference they will make in the lives of the people of western Wisconsin.

This budget also takes a long-term look at how to keep the promise of Medicare for the program's current 37 million seniors as well as the baby boomers when they retire. Initially, the agreement makes changes to the program that extends its solvency for about a decade. But it also establishes the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare. This commission must report to Congress by March 1, 1999, on the long-term financial condition of the Medicare trust funds and recommend ways to keep the system solvent through 2030.

This is not a matter to be taken lightly from the standpoint of budgetary or health concerns. Medicare has been revolutionary in its effect on the health of the senior population of America. We must not underestimate the peace of mind that guaranteed medical care in the later years of life brings to every American. It is imperative that we make some long-term fixes to protect and maintain Medicare for future generations.

We need to balance the budget today and 5 years from now, but we also need the political will to look at the long-term needs of our country's citizens. We have promises to keep to those who went before us and a responsibility to those who will travel the road we

pave. The Balanced Budget Agreement is a good first step in fulfilling that promise and I urge my congressional colleagues to continue this effort for the benefit of citizens young and old.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 1997, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 5

- 9:00 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings on pending nominations.
SD-226
- 9:30 a.m.
Joint Economic
To hold hearings to examine the employment-unemployment situation for August. 1334 Longworth Building
- 10:00 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.
SH-216

SEPTEMBER 8

- 9:30 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the progress of proposed reforms of the District of Columbia school system.
SD-342
- 2:00 p.m.
Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 222, to establish an advisory commission to provide advice and recommendations on the creation of an integrated, coordinated Federal policy designed to prepare for and respond to serious drought emergencies.
SD-342

SEPTEMBER 9

- 10:00 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings on the nomination of Gen. Henry H. Shelton, USA, to be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
SR-222
- Governmental Affairs
To resume hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.
SH-216
- 10:30 a.m.
Judiciary
Immigration Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the economic and fiscal impact of immigration, focusing on the report of the National Academy of Sciences.
SD-226
- 2:00 p.m.
Judiciary
Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the operation of the antitrust division of the Department of Justice, focusing on the Hart-Scott-Rodino process which requires companies to notify the Government of perspective mergers.
SD-226

SEPTEMBER 10

- 9:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings on the nominations of Heidi H. Schulman, of California, and Katherine Milner Anderson, of Virginia, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Robert L. Mallett, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary, and W. Scott Gould, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Commerce, and Sheila Foster Anthony, of Arkansas, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner.
SR-253
- Energy and Natural Resources
To hold oversight hearings to review Forest Service organizational structure, staffing, and budget for the Alaska region.
SD-366
- Labor and Human Resources
Business meeting, to mark up the proposed "Workforce Investment Partnership Act" and to consider other pending calendar business.
SD-430
- 10:00 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.
SH-216
- 2:30 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings on the nominations of Thomas J. Dodd, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica, Donna Jean Hrinak, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Bolivia, and Curtis Warren Kamman, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia.
SD-419

SEPTEMBER 11

9:00 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the implications for farmers of the recently proposed Global Tobacco settlement.

SD-106

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the health risks of 1950's atomic tests.

SD-192

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings on S. 660, to provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance of certain public lands in the State of Alaska to the University of Alaska, and S. 1092, to provide for a transfer of land interests in order to facilitate surface transportation between the cities of Cold Bay, Alaska, and King Cove, Alaska.

SD-366

10:00 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings on the nominations of Susan E. Rice, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Brian Dean Curran, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique, Timberlake Foster, of California, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Amelia Ellen Shippy, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malawi, and Nancy Jo Powell, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uganda.

SD-419

Governmental Affairs

To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

Labor and Human Resources

To hold hearings to examine the confidentiality of medical information.

SD-430

SEPTEMBER 12

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine issues regarding regulatory reform.

SD-342

SEPTEMBER 15

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine fraud in the micro-cap securities industry.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Governmental Affairs

International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proliferation in the information age.

SD-342

SEPTEMBER 16

10:00 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold oversight hearings to review Federal outdoor recreation policy.

SD-366

Governmental Affairs

To resume hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the commit-

tee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

Labor and Human Resources

To resume hearings to examine the implications of the recent Global Tobacco settlement.

SD-430

SEPTEMBER 17

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

SEPTEMBER 18

9:00 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To resume hearings to examine the implications for farmers of the recently proposed tobacco settlement.

SD-106

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

SEPTEMBER 19

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To resume hearings to examine regulatory reform issues.

SD-342

SEPTEMBER 23

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To resume hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

Special on Aging

To hold hearings to examine screening and treatment options for prostate cancer.

SD-628

SEPTEMBER 24

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

SEPTEMBER 25

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

Labor and Human Resources

To resume hearings to examine the confidentiality of medical information.

SD-430

SEPTEMBER 26

9:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to review the operation of the Treasury Department's Office of Inspector General.

SD-342

SEPTEMBER 29

9:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To resume hearings to review the operation of the Treasury Department's Office of Inspector General.

SD-342

SEPTEMBER 30

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To resume hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

OCTOBER 1

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

OCTOBER 2

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

OCTOBER 6

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine traditional frauds perpetrated over the Internet.

SD-342

OCTOBER 7

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To resume hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

OCTOBER 8

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

OCTOBER 9

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216